

Legislative Document No. 7.

REPORT

OF THE

FOURTH KENTUCKY LUNATIC ASYLUM,

(AT ANCHORAGE, KENTUCKY),

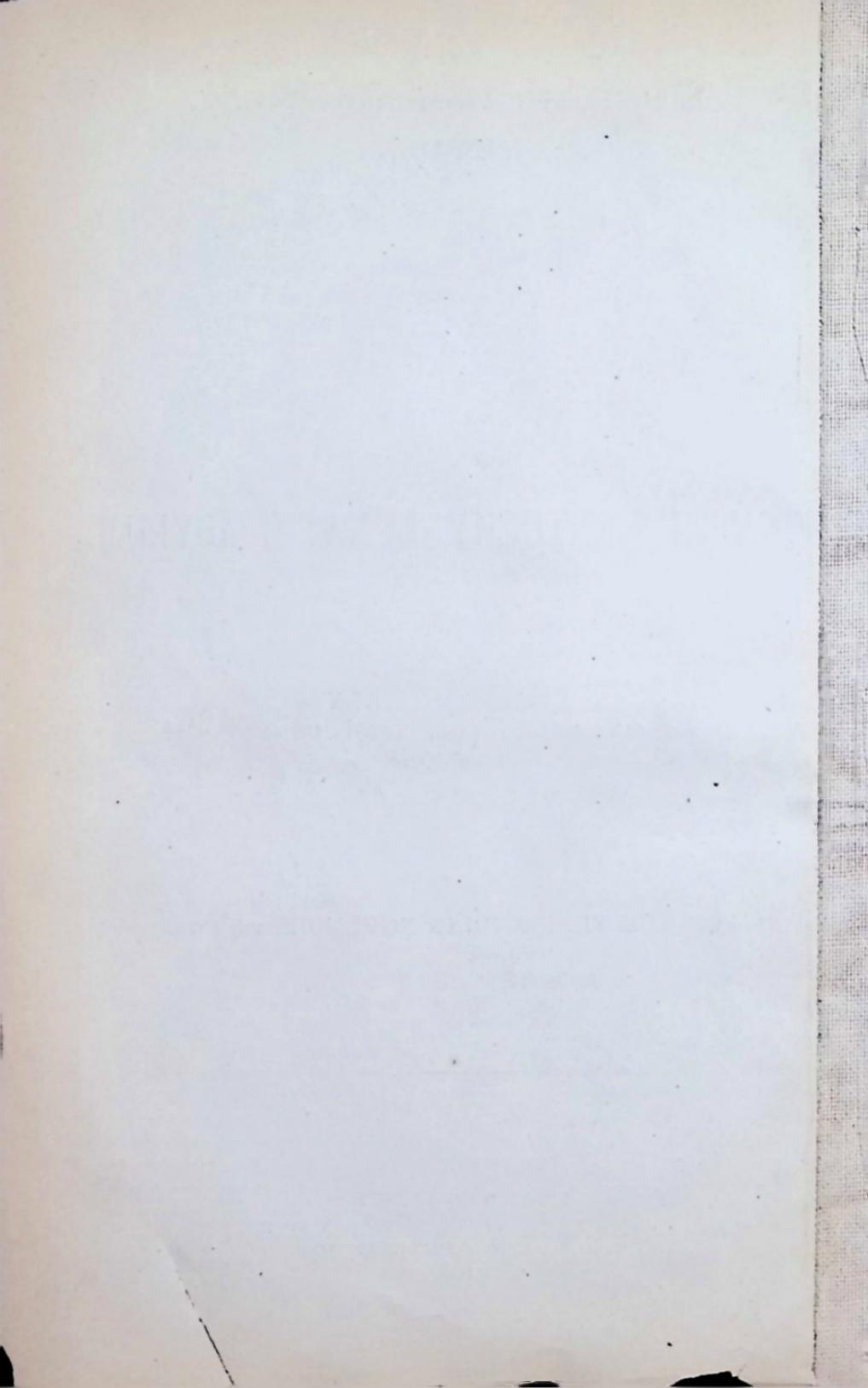
FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 28, 1873.

FRANKFORT, KY.:

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1873.



OFFICERS OF FOURTH KENTUCKY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

R. K. WHITE, *President.*
J. W. GOSLEE,
WM. HUGHES,
W. W. HILL, D. D.,
L. P. WEATHERBY, M. D.,
S. J. HOBBS,
J. C. SHERLEY,
WM. TERRY,
S. L. GAAR.

SUPERINTENDENT.

C. C. FORBES, M. D.

ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN.

T. W. GARDINER, M. D.

STEWARD.

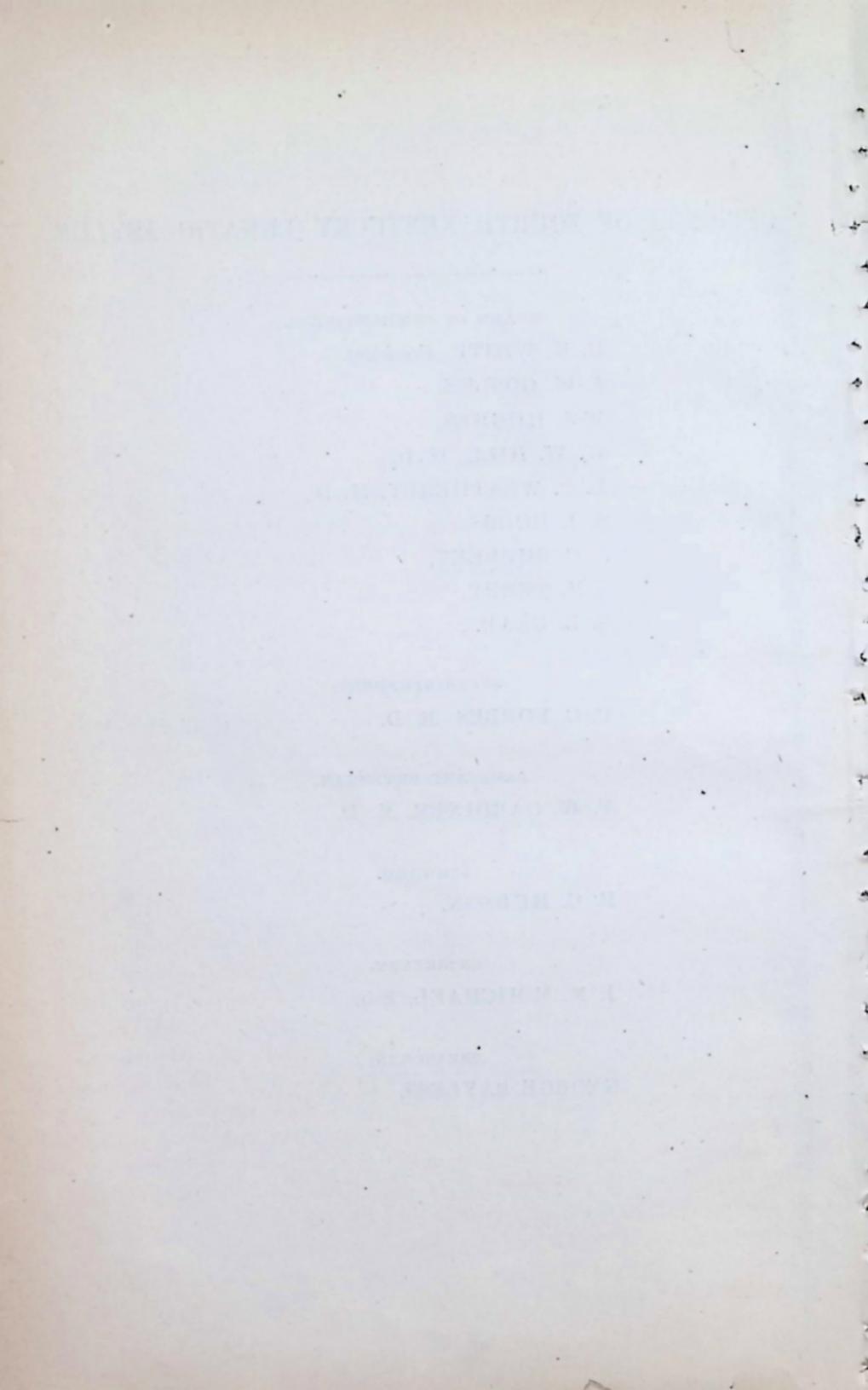
R. C. HUDSON.

SECRETARY.

J. N. M'MICHAEL, Esq.

TREASURER.

GEORGE BAYLESS.



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

To His Excellency, P. H. LESLIE, Governor of Kentucky:

In pursuance of the requirements of the law, we tender you a report of the organization of the Fourth Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, and its operations under our management as Commissioners, from that time till the present.

On the first day of May we held our first meeting at the State House of Reform for Juvenile Delinquents, and proceeded to the organization of our Board and to appoint such officers as the law makes it our duty to do, a Secretary, Treasurer, and Matron.

It was apparent at once that the buildings would have to undergo thorough reconstruction before being fit for the care and management of the insane. Without means for the purpose at our command, except a small remainder in the hands of the Managers of the House of Reform, we were in a manner powerless to do anything in that direction. An inventory was made, as required by law, of all the furniture, stock, farming utensils, &c., on hand and in possession of the former Institution, and formally placed in the care of the Steward, who entered, as well as he could at that late season, upon the work of planting a crop. The farm and garden have yielded very satisfactorily; the garden affording an abundance of excellent vegetables for the use of the Institution since it went into operation, and of potatoes, cabbage, and the like, almost or quite a sufficiency for the winter. The farm afforded a moderate yield of rye from the sowing of last fall, a good crop of oats, and an excellent crop of corn; altogether, this department has been quite satisfactory in every particular.

As to reconstruction of buildings, appointments, &c., we refer you to the accompanying report of the Superintendent for pretty full and concise details. As to the operations of the Institution, too, his report will give you the material facts, so that we can find but little to add, except an expression of satisfaction with the general conduct of affairs, in the face of the many and harassing difficulties experienced in the occupancy of an establishment of such extent, with a class of comparatively helpless people, amid the confusion and inconveniences arising from the presence of a large working force in the same building.

We have observed with pleasure the improvement in many cases, and the general comfort and contentment of the patients, under the unceasing care bestowed upon them by all the officers and attendants.

In furnishing the Institution, in all of its departments, we have experienced some embarrassment, having only a small sum on hand, which,

with an additional amount furnished by your Excellency, was speedily exhausted; so that we have had to depend in some measure upon the appropriation, per capita, for supplies, &c., for this purpose as well.

The purchases have been made, we think, judiciously and to the best advantage, mainly under the personal attention of the Superintendent and Steward, with one or more of our number. It will be recognized at once as a hardship to have to rely upon the funds designed as barely enough for subsistence for means for furnishing and equipping the establishment at the outset, and be compelled, by necessity, to confine the supplies to a limit which, if not stinting, requires almost a parsimonious economy.

We would respectfully suggest, therefore, that the attention of the Legislature be called to this matter, with a view to an appropriation sufficient to embrace the amounts so diverted from their intended and proper use, to restore them, and to further furnish the Institution with the necessaries to give it the fullest efficiency in the aims and objects to which it is devoted. In view of the almost certain demand for increased hospital accommodations for the insane, and at no very remote period—allowing that they are now sufficient—we may be indulged in the further suggestion, as made by the Superintendent, that such additions be made here, from time to time, as may be deemed necessary for the purpose.

Here we have local advantages that are certainly not excelled, while the increase of capacity to a point considerably above what we have now, would redound essentially to the economical conduct of the Institution.

We herewith inclose Superintendent's report, and also Treasurer's report, showing total amount of receipts and disbursements to date.

In conclusion, we would ask your acceptance of our congratulations and acknowledgments for the excellent selection of officers whom you have called to preside over the institution under our management, and to them we would tender our thanks for their uniform courtesy and politeness, as well as for the zeal and fidelity exhibited in the discharge of their respective duties.

ROBT. K. WHITE, *President*,
JOHN C. SHERLEY,
WM. HUGHES,
W. W. HILL,
J. W. GOSLEE,
WM. TERRY,
S. L. GAAR,
S. J. HOBBS,
L. P. WETHERBY,
Commissioners.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Board of Commissioners of the Fourth Kentucky Lunatic Asylum:

GENTLEMEN: In obedience to your requirement, I proceed to render you a report of the operations of this Institution for the brief period from its opening to the present time.

As introductory, a short resume of the history of provisions for the insane in our Commonwealth may not be uninteresting, as placing our own situation in a clearer light.

Previous to the year 1824, there was but one separate and independent hospital for the insane in the United States, although separate wards and apartments for their reception and care were appointed, in connection with general hospitals, as far back as 1753. On the 10th of November, 1773, the Virginia Asylum was inaugurated at Williamsburg, for the treatment of the most fearful malady that afflicts our race. In 1823 the Legislature of Kentucky made an appropriation, and appointed Commissioners to erect a Lunatic Asylum. The Fayette Hospital was procured, remodeled and refitted, and on the 1st of May, 1824, entered upon its long career of honor and usefulness, under the designation of the Kentucky Lunatic Asylum. The reflection will warm every philanthropic heart in Kentucky, that our own State, if not the first in this grand humanitarian movement, was next, and only preceded by her glorious old mother—"the mother of States and of statesmen;" and that, while all over the land magnificent structures have since been reared as unerring testimonies of an enlightened Christian charity, our people have not been in any sense delinquent.

The accommodations of the Kentucky Asylum were ample for the time. Up to 1844, its fortunes were varied. About this time a new era, dawning some years before, in the conceptions of Pinel, Charlesworth, Hill, Connolly, and others of their contemporaries, rose in full effulgence upon all civilization. Before its steady blaze the old barbarism in the treatment of the insane fled like mists before the morning sun, and humanity, benevolence, and common sense took its place. Cruelty and superstition gave way to sympathy and science; and the lunatic, instead of dragging out a miserable life in a filthy cell, subjected to chains and stripes, fed upon repulsive diet, and treated with incantations and sorceries, or inflicted with the most terrible tortures, was led forth with gentle hands

and soothing assurances ; shackles and chains fell from his limbs, and he was admitted to that kindness and care righteously due him on the score of his nature alone, without considering the obligations that rest upon all alike to help those who cannot help themselves. [About this time the Lexington Asylum was remodeled and enlarged, and, animated and impelled by the enlightened spirit of the age, Dr. JOHN R. ALLEN entered upon the duties of its Superintendent, and upon that career which will render his name illustrious while the Institution itself, or the specialty to which it is devoted, shall have an existence. The new regime so popularized the Institution that its wards were soon crowded with State and private patients, and a necessity was felt for enlarged facilities for the care of the insane. [About 1847, Commissioners were appointed by the Legislature for the location of another Asylum. Hopkinsville was selected as the site, and the splendid structure that adorns its vicinity was the result. The Kentucky Asylum became the Eastern, and that at Hopkinsville the Western Kentucky Lunatic Asylum. The insane of five of the ten Congressional Districts of the State were assigned respectively to their nearest Institution. The demand was again fully provided for, and two Institutions, unsurpassed anywhere in all essential appurtenances, were the just pride of the Commonwealth. A terrible misfortune fell upon the second Asylum in 1860, when it was wholly consumed by fire, and its inmates were turned into such quarters as could be extemporized for them. It was rebuilt under the most embarrassing difficulties during the war, but even improved in its reconstruction. In his annual report for 1868, the accomplished Superintendent announced its completion in the following handsome manner:

"The completion of the Asylum building, the great additions to our means of usefulness in managing such persons as are confided to our care, and the marked benefits they have received, are matters of legitimate congratulation. Many discouraging difficulties have been encountered in reaching the happy result—a building alike creditable to the Commonwealth and to you. None but those who have met such difficulties can appreciate their magnitude or enjoy the pleasure derived from a release from such cares, and the contemplation of a great work well done. This Asylum, with that at Lexington, when its progressing extensions are completed, will supply all of the necessities of the State for years to come, and for the first time since 1860 give accommodation for all who need it. The two Asylums will afford comfortable apartments for eight hundred and fifty persons, which is perhaps as near an approximation of hospital room for all classes of the insane, of all colors and of all grades, chronic as well as acute, idiots and epileptics, as is possessed by any State in this country, placing Kentucky in the front rank for her benevolence—her

spirit of all-embracing charity. The doors of her hospitals are thrown wide; none need appeal in vain for shelter or for unceasing kindly care."

The progressing extensions at Lexington, alluded to, were begun in 1867 and finished in 1869, the whole Institution having then a capacity of five hundred and twenty-five, with a supplementary addition of about forty; but so rapidly was it filled, along with the Western Asylum, as "the insane of all grade and of all colors, chronic as well as acute, idiots and epileptics," from the jails and poor houses, from the highways and byways, were poured into its wards, its distinguished Superintendent, in his annual report for 1869, took occasion to say: "It is probable that this Institution will have its full complement before the end of another asylum year." The prediction was fully realized, and an increased demand soon felt for more room. The question was again upon the Legislature as to what should be done? It was endeavored to ascertain what number was unaccommodated. Members instituted inquiries in their respective counties, and the census was consulted. The Legislature, in the meantime, enacted that those unable to obtain admission might be supported at the public expense, by committees appointed for the purpose, at the rates paid for support in the Asylums. It was discovered that about one hundred were thus being maintained, while greatly more than that number of applications were on file at the two Asylums. (The census gave the number of insane in the State at twelve hundred and forty-five, with nearly as many idiots. Hospital facilities only amounted to a capacity for eight hundred and fifty; so that the urgent importance of providing, as speedily as possible, for this redundancy, pressed in such terms as to admit of no delay in its consideration. An act was passed, and approved on the 5th of February last, providing "for the location and erection of the Third Lunatic Asylum, and the enlargement of the Western Lunatic Asylum." Subsequently it began to be estimated that the time consumed by the incidents of locating, preparations for building, and in the actual building itself, would so far protract the provision for those so sorely in need of it—some pining in jails, others restrained in the hands of committees, in imminent danger to themselves or others—that the same Legislature passed another act, approved April 21st following, entitled "An act concerning the various charitable institutions of this Commonwealth," of which the second section is as follows:

"SEC. 2. That said institutions, including the State House of Reform for Juvenile Delinquents, are hereby reorganized and reestablished in the manner and words following, to-wit: hereafter the Lunatic Asylum now known and styled the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, shall be named and styled the First Kentucky Lunatic Asylum; and the Asylum now known and styled the Western Lunatic Asylum, shall be named and styled the

Second Kentucky Lunatic Asylum; and the Institution now known and styled the Institution for the Education and Training of Feeble-minded Children, shall be named and styled the Third Kentucky Lunatic Asylum; and the Institution now known as the State House of Reform for Juvenile Delinquents, shall be named and styled as the Fourth Kentucky Lunatic Asylum."

The influences and necessities enumerated have brought me to the origin of our Institution. When I came to take charge, as Superintendent, I proceeded at once to a careful inspection and consideration of the buildings and their appointments, with the purpose of getting ready, as speedily as possible, to enter upon the immediate duties of my office. I cannot give you my views and convictions at the time better than by submitting a copy of a letter which I then addressed to His Excellency, the Governor, as follows:

"ANCHORAGE, KY., May 7, 1873.

"To His Excellency, P. H. LESLIE, Governor of Kentucky:

"DEAR SIR: I have just concluded a careful examination of the State House of Reform for Juvenile Delinquents, appropriated by a late act of the Legislature of Kentucky as an Asylum for the insane. The Institution consists of three new buildings, designated respectively as the 'central' or 'main' building, the 'shop,' and 'school'* building; the last just about being completed. The main building is a handsome and spacious structure, three stories high besides basement; it is well built, and quite handsomely finished throughout, and no doubt well constructed for the purposes for which it was designed. It is supplied with water by a hydraulic ram, from a spring a hundred and fifty yards distant, which affords an abundant, never-failing stream. The 'shop' building, as its designation suggests, was intended for a work-shop, and is nothing more than a plain, large house, with two stories and basement; the walls un-plastered, the joists naked beneath the floors, the basement paved with bricks, and the stories reached by an outside stair; it has no water supply, except from a cistern near it, with a small movable pump. The 'school'-house is not so large as the 'shop,' has two stories and basement; it is very well finished; its basement floor is of brick, and its water supply is also from a cistern in the yard. The 'shop' is about fifty, and the 'school'-house about seventy-five yards distant from the 'central' building, in nearly opposite directions. Besides these, the farm building, an old structure, is situated about two hundred and fifty yards distant, on a hill, one hundred yards beyond the spring; it has six rooms, kitchen, cellar, halls, &c., but is badly out of repair.

* In the public acts and reports this is denominated the "family" building.

"In their present condition these buildings are wholly unfit for the purposes of an insane Asylum; but, with proper reconstruction, while it will be impossible to adapt them, as if they had been designed in the beginning with an eye single to that object, still they can be made to answer passably well, and to afford a capacity for the accommodation of one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred inmates. To accomplish this, the buildings must be divided into suitable apartments, as dormitories, day, dining, and attendants' rooms, with water-closets on each floor where possible, or any how in each building. A suitable heating apparatus and water supply, with proper provision against fire, are indispensable. The windows of the dormitories will have to be guarded in a safe and sufficient manner. Some of the stairs will have to be removed, and others constructed.

"While I understand the demand to be most urgent for the care and accommodation of this unfortunate class of our fellow-beings, still I am fully convinced that any attempt at a proper custody and management of them, with less than I have indicated, would be in the greatest degree injudicious, nay, I might truly say, utterly impracticable.

"As to the cost or length of time it will require to effect the changes I have pointed to, I have not even an approximative idea. In my opinion, only a practical builder or architect could furnish the estimates or direct the work.

"The above facts and suggestions I have the honor to submit for your consideration, while I am,

"Very truly and sincerely, &c.,

"C. C. FORBES."

"Authorized and empowered to cause all the lunatics in the State to be provided for," the Governor at once engaged the services of an accomplished architect, who placed hands immediately on such work as could be prosecuted advantageously, whilst he could get in readiness proper plans, with details and specifications. The authorities consulted mainly as to arrangement, where existing structures would admit, were Dr. Kirkbrido's Architecture of Lunatic Asylums, Dr. Wilkins' exhaustive report, and the recommendations of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane.

Three points were to consider, namely: the best construction attainable under the circumstances, economy, and expedition.

The work was fully begun about the middle of June, and urged forward with all possible vigor, subject to such delays as inevitably result from the interdependence of mechanics—carpenters upon bricklayers, plasterers upon carpenters, &c. It was conducted so that one portion

could be made tenantable while another was in progress; so that on the 8th of August, having one ward in partial readiness, I transferred twenty-one male patients from the Second Asylum; on the 27th, twenty males from the First Asylum; on the 10th of September, twenty females from the First; and on the 1st of October, twelve females from the Second; besides such of both sexes as applied in the meantime from other quarters.

On the 15th of October the Institution was declared regularly open by proclamation of the Governor, after which its wards, on the male side, speedily filled to their utmost capacity, when it became necessary, in order to accommodate the rapid influx, to transfer ten of the more quiet and orderly to the Third Asylum.

The following table shows the number of patients, and the counties from which received:

Adair	1
Allen	1
Bath	2
Ballard	3
Boone	2
Bourbon	1
Bracken	2
Bullitt	1
Calloway	1
Campbell	3
Carroll	1
Carter	4
Casey	2
Clay	1
Clinton	1
Crittenden	1
Cumberland	4
Edmonson	2
Estill	2
Fayette	2
Floyd	2
Franklin	5
Grant	1
Grayson	1
Green	2
Greenup	3
Hancock	3
Hardin	6
Hart	3
Henderson	1
Henry	1

Hickman	1
Hopkins	1
Jefferson	33
Kenton	5
Knox	1
Laurel	2
Lawrence	2
Lewis	2
Livingston	2
Logan	2
Lyon	1
Madison	3
Marshall	3
Martin	1
Mason	3
McCracken	2
McLean	2
Meade	2
Mercer	1
Metcalf	1
Nelson	2
Ohio	2
Owen	1
Pendleton	1
Pike	1
Powell	1
Scott	1
Shelby	2
Spencer	1
Taylor	2
Trigg	1
Trimble	3
Warren	4
Webster	1
Whitley	1

Of this number, there have been four deaths and three escapes. Of the deaths, the causes may be enumerated—from phthisis, three; from exhaustion dependent upon long-continued rheumatism, one. We have been free comparatively from malarial influences, and entirely from epidemic complaints. The few acute cases have been quite easily manageable.

The escapes occurred during the season of confusion incidental to large daily arrivals upon the opening of the Institution, and could not be attributed to neglect or want of vigilance on the part of attendants or others.

The law requires that the *names* and number of inmates shall be reported. Obviously, a strict compliance with this requirement would work a hardship with many. While to be an inmate of a lunatic asylum is not in strictness disreputable, any more than to have typhoid fever or scarlatina, or the like, yet it does, whether right or wrong, almost invariably operate to the injury of one's social standing, or professional or business reputation; and, therefore, with no disposition to evade the law, I have made that part of my report separately, intended as a part, but not to be embodied in it.

In a medical point of view, I have but little of interest to mention, aside from the gratifying fact that our inmates have enjoyed, all along, since their arrival, general good health, with reasonable comfort and contentment; that they have been in the main quite manageable, I ascribe, with just pleasure, very much to the vigilance, efficiency, and tact of their excellent attendants. Our medical treatment has been based upon the recent teachings and practice of the times; but the period has been so short, and our records of cases are consequently so meagre, that we have reached no reliable deductions. Besides, our opportunities for very accurate or extended observations are abridged by the fact that our treatment is confined solely, by the provisions of the law, to chronic cases and those deemed incurable. The long line of mental ailments is placed beyond our professional sphere. It is not much heart that a physician can have to engage with zeal or fervor in the treatment of the insane, when the patient presented has been decided by another to be beyond the reach of remedies. It is obviously enough to dampen the ardor of the most enthusiastic and sanguine cultivator of any specialty to have placed in his way, at every turn, only such cases as must necessarily eventuate unsatisfactorily; but it is not a question of personal advantage, or opportunity to make a name, to build a reputation, or to "show off" with a long list of cures, a small death-rate, a stunning list of scientific researches, investigations, observations, and experiments, that concerns most the enlightened and unselfish alienist, in having his labors confined to a limited class of the insane, and that class even the most hopeless. It is the much more exalted consideration involved in their separation as affecting the insane themselves. This question, as seriously as any other, has occupied the attention of the ablest, the most learned, as well as the most experienced, wherever the subject of insanity has been studied at all. It is a matter directly in point, as affecting not only ours, but all similar institutions in the State, and I trust I may be indulged in the effort to set it in the light in which it is seen by the best authorities everywhere. In a brief reference which he made to the reorganization of the

Lunatic Asylums of Kentucky, the editor of the American Journal of Insanity, who is no less than the head of one of the first hospitals for the insane in America, or the world, Dr. Gray, of the State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, New York, says: "It is an unfortunate feature of the law that chronicity of disease is made a distinguishing point of difference in the Institutions, as the Third and Fourth Asylums are to receive the chronic insane from the State, and from the other Asylums." In 1870, the Legislature of California, influenced by the fearful increase of insanity in that State, passed an act authorizing the appointment of a commissioner to visit the principal insane asylums of the United States and of Europe, to collect and compile all accessible and reliable information as to their management, and make a written report to the Governor, embodying at length a statement of the different modes of treatment in use, statistics, &c. The appointment was conferred upon Dr. E. T. Wilkins, whose mature learning, splendid abilities, and faithful discharge of his duties, impress his elaborate report with the stamp of the highest authority. Upon the question of separation he says:

"This is a question that has excited some attention in all countries; and though it has been decided as practically unwise and improper by the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, and most of the bodies of a similar character in other countries, still it finds individual advocates in some of them; it was one of the subjects to which we directed special attention in our inquiries, and the opinion of every Superintendent with whom we met during our investigations was solicited. About one fourth of those in Italy, one half in Austria, Moravia, Bohemia, Saxony, and a few other of the German States, perhaps a tenth in other continental countries, and one in twenty of those in Great Britain and the United States, were in favor of separation, while all the rest were opposed to the principle and the practice. * * * * * Candor compels us to say that our observations of the results of the two systems forces us to the conclusion that separation is wrong in principle, and detrimental to the best interests of the insane. * * * * * * * * * * *

"With regard to the results of treatment, the facts elicited are altogether in favor of non-separation; the per centage of cures being less, and that of deaths greatest, in those countries where the system of separation is most generally pursued."

Aside from all these considerations, a yet more stubborn one of impracticability presents. The First and Second Asylums have a joint capacity which far exceeds that of the Third and Fourth, while the number of acute as compared with chronic cases of insanity are inversely proportionate. Duration of one year is assumed as the conventional limit which

separates the two classes. I turn to the report of the Eastern (now the First) Asylum for 1869, and I find that of 230 patients 66 had been insane less than one year, 84 one year and more, and 80 unknown. In the Western (now the Second) Asylum, in 1867, of 117 patients 43 were of a duration less, and 74 more, than one year.

I would suggest, albeit with becoming deference, I trust, that the remedy for this difficulty is equally the remedy for not a less momentous one of a different nature. The provision for the insane in the State is still inadequate. Urgent cases are perhaps about all accommodated for the present, but, allowing the increase to be in the future in proportion to that of the past, increased facilities for their care will soon be felt as a pressing necessity. With our Institution properly supplemented, from time to time, as occasion may require or exigency demand, the restrictions as to class might be removed, and the removal operate advantageously to all parties. To mention none other, the one consideration of economy in transportation of patients to the various Institutions, the nearest and most accessible, would constitute a sufficient argument in favor of the measure.

Here I may recur to the reconstruction of this Institution. The central building has been well laid out into three wards, possessing a capacity for eighty or ninety patients, with kitchen and laundry in basement. The dormitories are all of the kind known as associated; that is, in which more than one occupant is provided for. Connected with each ward is a dining-room, reached by a dumb-waiter from the kitchen, an attendants' room and bath-room, with appropriate closets, &c. The officers' quarters are located in the front portion of this building. They are warmed by open grates, while the balance of the house is supplied with a steam heating apparatus, affording in the halls direct, and in the dormitories indirect, radiation of heat from coils of pipe calculated for one foot of radiating surface to a hundred cubic feet of air space, the air being admitted through an appropriate duct from without to each chamber, thereby affording a very excellent means of ventilation. The steam for this purpose, as well as for driving the machinery, washer, wringer, &c., is derived from a high-pressure boiler, situated in an engine-house in the rear. The arrangement is satisfactory enough in the main, but a matter of regret has been that we could not obtain such day-rooms as are desirable; and, besides, we should have preferred the laundry in a separate house. The "shop" building was divided so as to afford a corridor in the centre of each story, with dormitories on each side, sufficient in all for the lodgment of forty-five patients. A day-room has been arranged in the basement, together with a common dining-room, in which all the patients in this house take their meals. It has convenient water-closets and bath

on each floor. It is warmed by a similar arrangement to that in the central building, the only difference that the steam is supplied by a low-pressure generator, situated in a room provided for the purpose in the basement. The arrangement in the school building differs in no essential from the above. These two buildings are occupied by males, and have a joint capacity for about eighty patients. The food for all the inmates is prepared in the kitchen in the central building, and distributed by hand for the present, a better arrangement of tramways and cars having been designed as needful and proper, but not yet constructed. The water supply will be from the spring referred to in another place, forced into suitable tanks in the roof of the building, and thence distributed to the proper points through mains and pipes to all the buildings. The farm building has not as yet been put to the use intended as a part of the Institution. It has all along been, and will be for a short time, occupied by workmen engaged variously, being the only reliance they had for temporary quarters, and their work being of such indispensable importance, that we have been compelled to make this arrangement or be subjected to a most inconvenient delay.

It will be observed that this Institution, with its present construction, is not an unfit representative of what is known as the pavilion or block plan, consisting of separate and distinct blocks or buildings, but so grouped and situated as to comprise the whole within the sphere of convenient management, and admitting of a systematic order of conduct. This system has been of late attracting the attention of those best informed on the subject, and has found warm advocates and firm opposers. Two institutions in this country, at Staunton, Virginia, and at Boston, Massachusetts, have taken the lead, and have been found to give satisfaction. In Great Britain, France, and the German States, the plan meets with fair approval and is gaining in favor. I could not venture to recommend it without feeling a just degree of diffidence and mistrust of my own judgment in the presence of gentlemen of ripe age and experience, who have discussed the subject very thoroughly, for and against; but I may be permitted briefly to refer to barely two arguments and considerations that give it favor in my estimation, namely: the comparative safety from fire, and the unquestionable advantages in an efficient and economical ventilation; while, at the same time, I may be allowed to confess my inability to appreciate any serious inconvenience, allowing that the buildings are situated in reasonable proximity and connected with proper walks and facilities for intercommunication.

I can see, or think I can see, how this Institution, upon this plan, could be conveniently and economically supplemented with a building proper

in all its appointments for the management and treatment of the most violently maniacal cases; and at the same, or another time, with a department for the colored insane, besides, if desired, a retreat for inebriates, &c.

It is believed that this location offers as many considerations in its favor as any. Situated in the midst of a country of fine fertility, with a beautiful, gently undulating surface, abundantly watered, and well drained, it follows that its surroundings must be healthful and agreeable. Near enough to the great commercial metropolis of the State to be easy of access (and yet sufficiently removed to be free from many disadvantages that would arise from a closer proximity), it is easily available to all parts of the Commonwealth.

The expense of building, as to cost of material and price of labor, is as low here as anywhere, all things considered. Just here I may appropriately remark, that the average cost of construction of Insane Asylums in the United States is placed at about one thousand (\$996) dollars per patient. This Institution, with original cost and that of its reconstruction counted, exhibits estimates but little over half those figures; but it may be said truly that our appointments do not approach in completeness those of the more expensive establishments, whose elaborate and perfect construction and appliances tend to swell the average.

In conclusion, gentlemen, as I submit the above most respectfully, I tender to you my most cordial acknowledgments for the unvarying consideration you have manifested all along for my views and opinions, often imperfect, no doubt; as well as for the uniform courtesy and kindness shown in all our personal and official intercourse.

Very truly, &c.,

C. C. FORBES, M. D.,

Superintendent.

FOURTH KY. LUNATIC ASYLUM, ANCHORAGE, November 10, 1873.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Board of Commissioners of the Fourth Kentucky Lunatic Asylum:

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with your request, I herewith report to you the total receipts and disbursements of the Asylum to date:

Receipts-----	\$13,169 13
Disbursements-----	9,575 53
Balance cash on hand-----	\$3,593 60

Very respectfully submitted.

GEORGE BAYLESS, *Treasurer.*

Louisville, Ky., November 28th, 1873.

